

# Office of Mine Safety and Licensing



## OUR MISSION

*To ensure that all coal miners in the Commonwealth are provided with a safe working environment; to provide effective education and training to coal miners to foster safe work practices; and to ensure that statutes and regulations regarding coal mining are enforced fairly and consistently throughout the Commonwealth.*

## A Word from the Executive Director



On June 20, 2011 historic amounts of rain fell in Middlesboro in Bell County, Ky. Indications are that 5 to 7 inches of rain fell in less than five hours. As a result of this downpour a diversion ditch located at the Bell County Coal Jellico #1 mine located approximately one mile from Middlesboro failed. The diversion ditch was designed to divert water flow above the mine away from the box cut and the six mine portals in the box cut. When water breached the diversion ditch a tremendous amount of water entered the box cut and into the six mine entrances. At approximately 6:20 a.m. mine management called the three miners inside the mine, who were roughly 7,200 feet inside the mine, to inform them of the impending danger and instructed them to try to escape the mine. The miners, Russell Asher, Pernell Witherspoon and Douglas Warren, traveled within 600 feet of the mine surface when they discovered water had roofed in the mine. All escape ways were blocked by water.

Mine management, Kentucky Office of Mine Safety and Licensing, Mine Safety and Health Administration and local emergency response agencies began rescue efforts immediately. Neighboring mining operations, local emergency response and local businesses began sending equipment, personnel and supplies to the Bell County mine.

As a result of the hard work and commitment of those who participated in the rescue efforts, all three miners walked from the mine safe and unharmed at 8:22 p.m.

It is truly gratifying to see what was accomplished as the mining community came together to help miners in need.

From everyone at the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing, thank you for responding.

Johnny Greene

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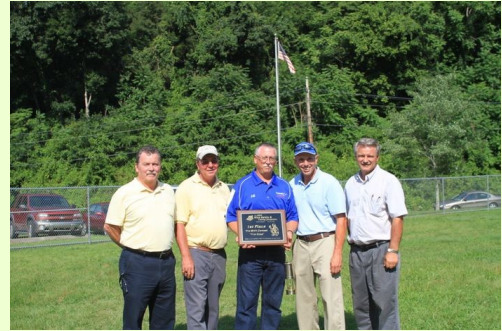
# The KEMI Mine Safety and Training Competition

On July 12-14, Kentucky Employers' Mutual Insurance hosted its annual KEMI Mine Safety and Training Competition in Pikeville. This competition features events for Pre-Shift, First-Aid, Bench and Mine Rescue. Over 50 coal companies from Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia came together to compete in each event. Listed below and on the following pages are the winners for each competition.

## Pre-Shift

### Overall Winners: Pre-Shift

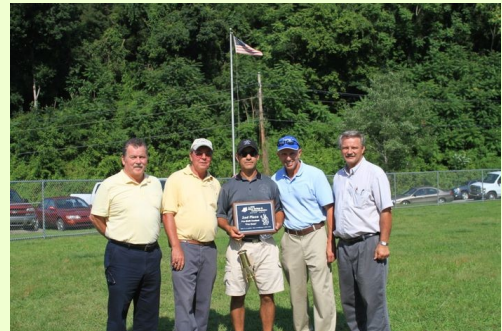
Place	Pre-Shifter	Company
1 <sup>st</sup>	Jeff Clark	KY Coal Academy, MCC Team
2 <sup>nd</sup>	David Dennis	Patriot Coal, Highland #9
3 <sup>rd</sup>	David Mackey	Advent Mining
4 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Williams	KY Coal Academy, MCC Team



1st place overall and gold winner, **Jeff Clark**, with Johnny Greene, OMSL Executive Director, Mike Elswick, Pikeville District Supervisor, Daven Hoskins, KEMI Representative and Stevie Justice, MSHA Acting District Manager.

### Silver Winners: Pre-Shift

Place	Pre-Shifter	Company
1 <sup>st</sup>	David Stepp	Excel Mining
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Rutherford	Arch Coal, Lone Mountain Processing
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jason Brown	Cumberland River Coal, Blue Team
4 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Couch	KY Coal Academy, MCC Team



1st place silver winner, **David Stepp**, with Johnny Greene, Mike Elswick, Daven Hoskins and Stevie Justice.

## First-Aid

### Overall Winners: First Aid

Place	Team Name
1 <sup>st</sup>	Alpha Natural Resources, Southern WV Team #2
2 <sup>nd</sup>	TECO Coal, Team #3
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Patriot Coal, Highland #9
4 <sup>th</sup>	Walter Energy, JWR Mine #4

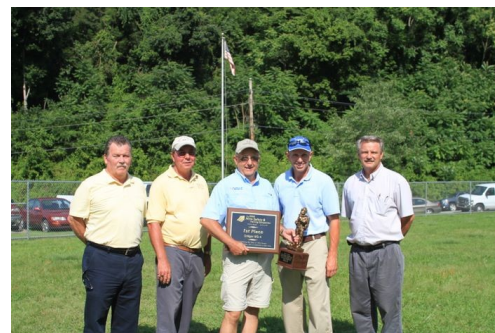


**Alpha Natural Resources, Southern WV Team #2**, 1st place in the First Aid competition.

## Bench

### BG4 Competition

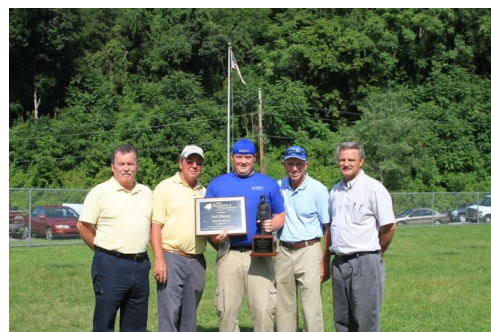
Place	Benchman	Company
1 <sup>st</sup>	David Rush	Consol Energy, Blacksville #2
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tim Turner	Alpha Natural Resources, Black Mountain Blue Team
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Scott Jordan	Drummond Company, Shoal Creek
4 <sup>th</sup>	Tony Lloyd	Alpha Natural Resources, Black Mountain White Team



1st place in BG4 Competition, **David Rush**, with Johnny Greene, Mike Elswick, Daven Hoskins and Stevie Justice.

### Biopak 240R Competition

Place	Benchman	Company
1 <sup>st</sup>	Brandon Tackett	Arch Coal, ICG Knott County White Team
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Patrick Gomez	KY Coal Academy, MCC Team
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ryan Culbertson	KY Coal Academy, MCC Team
4 <sup>th</sup>	Steven Johnson	Arch Coal, ICG Knott County White Team

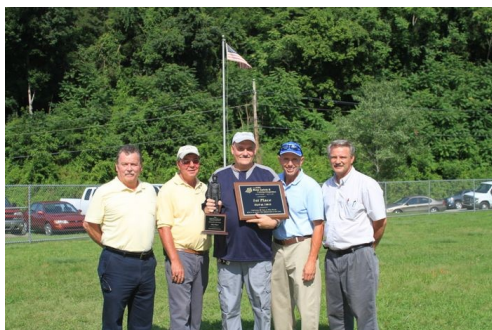


1st place in Biopak 240R Competition, **Brandon Tackett**, with Johnny Greene, Mike Elswick, Daven Hoskins and Stevie Justice.

### Biopak 240S Competition

Place	Benchman	Company
1 <sup>st</sup>	Mike Richards	Excel Mining
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Daniel Wilson	Peabody Energy, Willow Lake
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mark Lloyd	Patriot Coal, Bluegrass Mine Rescue
4 <sup>th</sup>	Josh Gibson	Patriot Coal, Highland #9

1st place in Biopak 240S Competition, **Mike Richards**, with Johnny Greene, Mike Elswick, Daven Hoskins and Stevie Justice.



## Mine Rescue

### Mine Rescue Day #1

Place	Team Name
1 <sup>st</sup>	Consol Energy of PA, Enlow Fork Gold
2 <sup>nd</sup>	KY Coal Academy, MCC Team
3 <sup>rd</sup>	TECO Coal, Gray Team
4 <sup>th</sup>	Alpha Natural Resources, White Team

### Mine Rescue Day #2

Place	Team Name
1 <sup>st</sup>	Consol, McElroy Coal, Blue Team
2 <sup>nd</sup>	KY Coal Academy, MCC Team
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Walter Energy, JWR Mine #4
4 <sup>th</sup>	TECO Coal, Gray Team



## The KEMI Mine Safety & Training Competition (Continued)

### Mine Rescue Final Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Team Name</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	KY Coal Academy, MCC Team
2 <sup>nd</sup>	TECO Coal, Gray Team
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alpha Natural Resources, White Team
4 <sup>th</sup>	Alpha Natural Resources, Blue Team

**1st Place**



**2nd Place**



## Harlan County Safety Days

On July 26-28, Tri-Chamber of Commerce Cumberland Tourist Commission hosted the Mine Safety Days Competition in Cumberland, Ky. This competition features events for Pre-Shift, First Aid, Bench and Mine Rescue. Over 20 teams from Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia came together to compete in each event. On the final day, Johnny Greene was present for the awards ceremony for each event. Plaques were also awarded for the companies and individuals who assisted in the Bell County Coal Jellico Mine water inundation.



## Harlan County Safety Days (Winners)

### Pre-Shift Winner



**Chris Couch** (center), with Johnny Greene and Tommy Hooker.

### First Aid Winner



**Walter Energy; JWR Blue Creek Team** (center), with Johnny Greene and Tommy Hooker.

### Biopack 240R Winner



**Daniel Boggs** (center), with Johnny Greene and Tommy Hooker.

### Pre-Shift Competition Final Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Pre-Shifter</u>	<u>Company/Team</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Chris Couch	Cumberland River Coal Company; Blue Team
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Rutherford	Arch Coal, Lone Mountain Processing, Inc.; Lone Mountain Team
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jack Quillen	Black Mountain Resources; Blue Team
4 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Linley	Walter Energy, Inc.; North River Mine "Red" Team

### First Aid Competition Final Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Company/Team</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Joe Tingle	Walter Energy; JWR Blue Creek Team
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dave Wilder	TECO Coal Corporation; TECO Coal Blue Team
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Keith McCoy	TECO Coal Corporation; TECO Coal Blue Team
4 <sup>th</sup>	Gene Walker	Walter Energy, Inc.; North River Mine "Red" Team

### Bench Biopack 240R Competition Final Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Benchman</u>	<u>Company/Team</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Daniel Boggs	ICG Knott County LLC; White Team
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Brandon Tackett	ICG Knott County LLC; White Team
3 <sup>rd</sup>	David McGuire	ICG Knott County LLC; White Team
4 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Johnson	ICG Knott County LLC; White Team

## Harlan County Safety Days (Winners Continued)

### Bench Biopack 240S Competition Final Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Benchman</u>	<u>Company/Team</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	David Rakestraw	White County Coal, LLC; Pattiki
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Zach Brown	Gibson County Coal; Rescue Rhino's
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kermitt Melvin	Wolf Run Mining Company; Blue Team
4 <sup>th</sup>	Lathan McIntosh	ICG Hazard LLC; Blue Team

### Bench BG4 Competition Final Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Benchman</u>	<u>Company/Team</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Scott Maggard	Cumberland River Coal Company; Blue Team
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jamie Gardner	Walter Energy, Inc.; North River Mine "Red" Team
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tony Lloyd	Black Mountain Resources; White Team
4 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Easterling	TECO Coal Corporation; TECO Coal Blue Team

### Day 1 Mine Rescue Competition Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Company/Team</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Phillip Muncy	Black Mountain Resources; White Team
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ricky Lewis	Walter Energy; JWR Blue Creek Team
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kevin Harris	Black Mountain Resources; Blue Team
4 <sup>th</sup>	Jason Brown	Cumberland River Coal Company; Gray Team

### Day 2 Mine Rescue Competition Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Company/Team</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Mark Keyser	Mingo Logan Coal Co. (Arch Coal), Mountain Laurel Gold Team
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jeremy Webb	Cumberland River Coal Company; Blue Team
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ricky Lewis	Walter Energy; JWR Blue Creek Team
4 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin Cosby	Walter Energy, Inc.; North River Mine "Red" Team

### Mine Rescue Competition Final Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Company/Team</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Ricky Lewis	Walter Energy; JWR Blue Creek Team
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Phillip Muncy	Black Mountain Resources; White Team
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jason Brown	Cumberland River Coal Company; Gray Team
4 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin Cosby	Walter Energy, Inc.; North River Mine "Red" Team





**Bench Biopack 240S Winner**  
**Daniel Rakestraw** (center), with  
Johnny Greene and Tommy Hooker.



**Bench BG4 Winner**  
**Scott Maggard** (center), with Johnny  
Greene and Tommy Hooker.



**Day 1 Mine Rescue Winner**  
**Phillip Muncy** (center), with Johnny  
Greene and Tommy Hooker.



**Day 2 Mine Rescue Winner**  
**Mark Keyser** (center), with Johnny  
Greene and Tommy Hooker.



**Overall Mine Rescue Winner**  
**Ricky Lewis** (center), with Johnny  
Greene and Tommy Hooker.

## Fatalities and Serious Injuries July—September 2011

# Fatalities

June 29, 2011

**David. A Partin**

Manalapan Mining

Harlan District

Fall of Roof/Rib

July 11, 2011

**Ryan K. Thatcher**

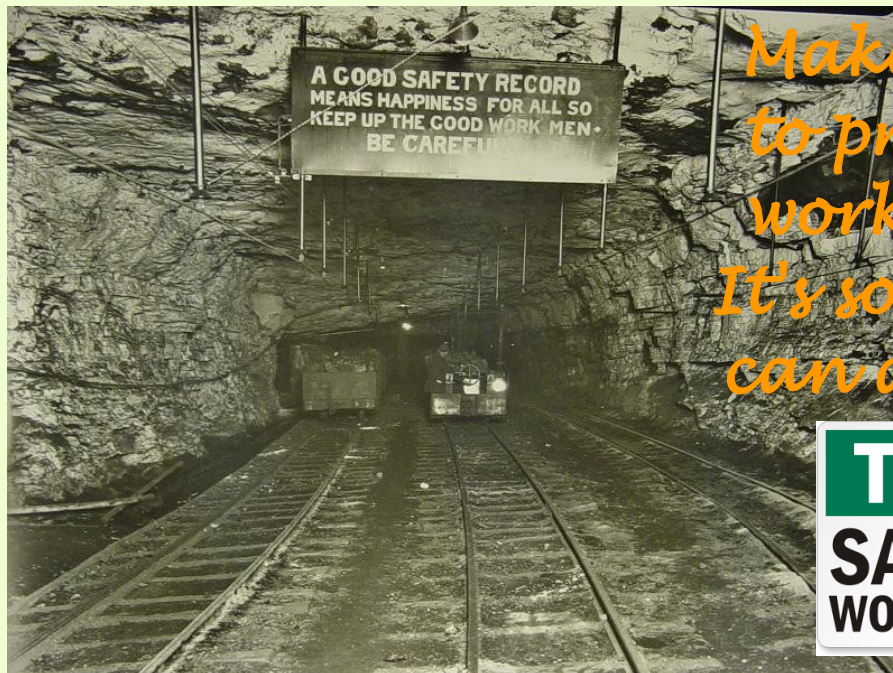
Martin County Coal Corporation

Martin District

Machinery

# Serious Injuries

There have been no serious injuries to report for this quarter.



*Make it a point  
to practice safe  
working habits.  
It's something we  
can all live with.*

**THINK  
SAFETY...  
WORK SAFELY**

To view a full report please go to:

<http://omsl.ky.gov/Pages/KentuckyCoalMineFatalAccidentReports.aspx>





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Website: [omsl.ky.gov](http://omsl.ky.gov)

To view OMSL Disciplinary cases  
before the Kentucky Mine Safety  
Review Commission, please go to:

**OMSL.KY.GOV**



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